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University Committee Chair (Faculty Senate Executive Committee)

UW-Milwaukee (UWM) is distinct from other UW-System (UWS) institutions because of its dual mission:

- UWM is a doctoral granting institution, which requires that it be a premier research university, with scholars that are known nationally and internationally and who are heavily engaged in research and teaching;
- UWM is an “access” institution which requires that it provide a high quality college education at an affordable price.

UWM Students

- ~30,000 students (~25,000 UG / ~5,000 GRD), with a **21% increase** from 2001 to 2011
- ***More Wisconsin residents as students than any other four-year university***
- Students from ***all 72 counties in Wisconsin, and every one of the 50 United States***
- More than 1,000 international students from over 80 countries
- More than 1,200 veterans/dependents, making UWM Wisconsin’s largest veteran-serving university
- 21% students of color (targeted and non-t), and the largest total number of any UW-System campus
- Developed a comprehensive approach to ensuring successful credit transfer—so successful that we are the No. 1 transfer destination in the UWS.

UWM Research and Impact

- Research expenditures of \$62 million in 2011 (almost tripled from \$23 million in 2001)
- Included in the Shanghai Ranking, a listing of the world’s top 500 universities
- Annual impact of about \$1.6 billion on Wisconsin’s economy, which pays back the State’s annual investment in UWM at least 13 times over.
- Recent creation of the School of Freshwater Sciences and Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health, which will tap into regional private sector strengths and respond to emerging needs and challenges
- Exciting new corporate partnerships, such as with Johnson Controls for development of innovative battery technology

Evaluation of UWM

- Growth in enrollment and research over the last decade achieved while State general purpose revenue as a percentage of operating funds fell from 36% to 20%
- Goldwater Institute ranked UWM as one of the more efficient universities in the USA
- Of ~140,000 living alumni, 92% are Wisconsin residents—the highest total among the 13 UW-System 4-year campuses. In a recent survey of a smaller alumni group, 96% were satisfied with their UWM educational experience.

Issues

- Student access to classes required for graduation—personal experience as Geography Dept. Chair (lack of full-time faculty, reliance on part-time, delay and quality reduction)
- Competitive University Workforce Commission Report (business leaders’ perspective)
- Dramatic increases in retirements and departures, especially in the past two years
- RFP to run the University: how we don’t have access to best business practices

Requests

- Increased operational flexibility (concentration on output metrics)
- The ability to set compensation based on merit and market rates
- The ability to purchase supplies, equipment and travel in the most cost effective manner
- The ability to allocate savings and revenues earned to initiatives that the institution deems important
- Full delegation of these authorities to Board of Regents, an Advisory Board, or any other mechanism that enables UWM to use them would be acceptable

Concluding Remarks

UW-Milwaukee is very young as a university. Formed from the merger of predecessor institutions only 56 years ago, we are barely past adolescence compared to many other institutions of higher learning. While we have never truly been funded in keeping with our mission as a research university, nevertheless throughout our history, we have continually risen to the challenge of improving our value and service to the State of Wisconsin, especially over the last decade. We have done so because we realize the crucial role we must play in the future success of Southeastern Wisconsin, and the entire State. However, there is a limit to how much any individual or institution can accomplish through force of will alone. UW-Milwaukee faculty, staff, and administration share an audacious vision of our institution growing to realize its full potential as a research university, and as a powerful force for positive change in southeastern Wisconsin, across the State, the Nation, and even the World.

We realize that financial resources are scarce, but you can still help make our vision possible by recommending that we receive maximal operational flexibilities.